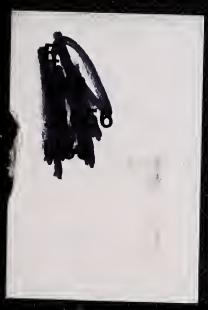
A. Willis Robertson

LATE A SENATOR FROM VIRGINIA

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES AND TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES



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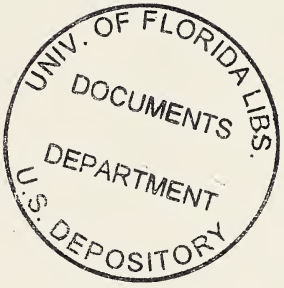

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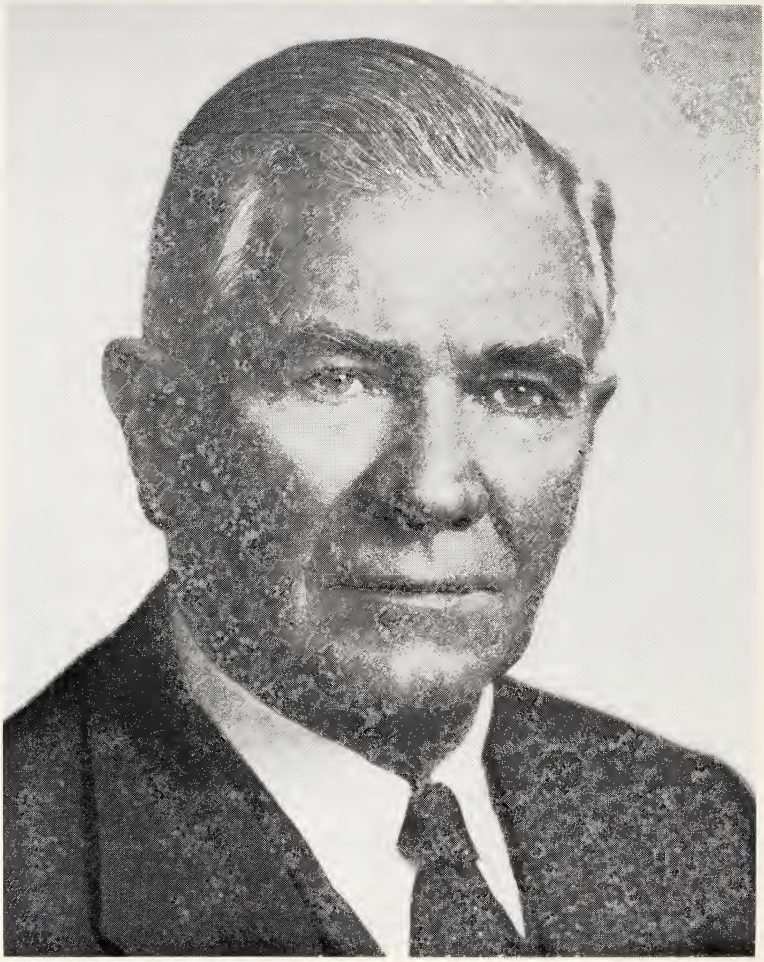

92D CONGRESS, 2D SESSION SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 92–69

Memorial Addresses

AND

Other Tributes

IN THE

Congress of the United States

ON THE

LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF

A. Willis Robertson

Ninety-Second Congress
Second Session

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1972

Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing

Contents

	Page
Biography	v
Proceedings in the Senate	1
Announcement of death by the Honorable John C. Stennis, of Mississippi	1
Tributes by Senators:	
Allen, James B., of Alabama	6
Anderson, Clinton P., of New Mexico	20
Bennett, Wallace F., of Utah	28
Bible, Alan, of Nevada	23
Byrd, Harry F., Jr., of Virginia	3, 8
Byrd, Robert C., of West Virginia	17
Cotton, Norris, of New Hampshire	8
Fannin, Paul J., of Arizona	5
Fong, Hiram L., of Hawaii	23
Jordan, Len B., of Idaho	21
Kennedy, Edward M., of Massachusetts	25
Long, Russell B., of Louisiana	27
McClellan, John L., of Arkansas	19
McGee, Gale W., of Wyoming	24
McIntyre, Thomas J., of New Hampshire	22
Mansfield, Mike, of Montana	10
Moss, Frank E., of Utah	20
Pastore, John O., of Rhode Island	18
Sparkman, John J., of Alabama	4
Spong, William B., Jr., of Virginia	2, 9, 18
Stennis, John C., of Mississippi	1, 11
Sermon by Dr. William L. Lumpkin, pastor of the Freemason Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., at the funeral service of Hon. A. Willis Robertson	14
Talmadge, Herman E., of Georgia	4
Thurmond, Strom, of South Carolina	7
Proceedings in the House of Representatives	33
Announcement of death by the Honorable Watkins M. Abbitt, of Virginia	33
Tributes by Representatives:	
Abbitt, Watkins M., of Virginia	33
Boggs, Hale, of Louisiana	34

Proceedings in the House of Representatives—Continued
Tributes by Representatives—Continued
Pages
Daniel, W. C., of Virginia 36
Downing, Thomas N., of Virginia 37
Ford, Gerald R., of Michigan 35
Poff, Richard H., of Virginia 34
Robinson, J. Kenneth, of Virginia 35
Rooney, John J., of New York 39
Satterfield, David E., III, of Virginia 40
Editorial from Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, November 4, 1971 40
Scott, William L., of Virginia 42
Sikes, Robert L. F., of Florida 39
Wampler, William C., of Virginia 37
Whitehurst, G. William, of Virginia 38

Biography

A. Willis Robertson was born in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, W. Va., May 27, 1887; moved to Lynchburg, Va., with his parents in 1891; attended the public schools of Lynchburg and Rocky Mount, Va.; University of Richmond, Richmond, Va., B.A., 1907, and from the law department of the same university, LL. B., 1908; was admitted to the bar in 1908 and commenced practice in Buena Vista, Rockbridge County, Va.; moved to Lexington, Rockbridge County, Va., in 1919 and continued the practice of law; member of the State senate, 1916–22; during World War I served in the U.S. Army with the 318th Infantry, 80th Division, as assistant camp adjutant at Camp Lee, Va., and in the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D.C., with the rank of first lieutenant, captain, and major, from August 1917 to June 1919; served as Commonwealth's attorney for Rockbridge County, 1922–28; chairman of the State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1926–32; elected as a Democrat to the 73d Congress and to the six succeeding Congresses and served from March 4, 1933, until November 5, 1946, when he resigned; was nominated to the 80th Congress in 1946 but withdrew, having received the nomination for U.S. Senator; elected in 1946 as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy in the term ending January 3, 1949, caused by the death of Carter Glass, and again elected in 1948, 1954, and 1960, serving from November 6, 1946, to January 3, 1967; unsuccessful candidate for renomination in 1966; served as consultant to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 1966–68; retired and resided in Lexington, Va., until his death there November 1, 1971; interment in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
FOR
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON

Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, *November 1, 1971.*

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, I have learned, within the last few minutes, of the passing of one who was a very dear friend to many of us and who was a beloved and outstanding Member of this body for a great number of years—former Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, of Virginia. He passed away approximately an hour and a half or 2 hours ago at Lexington, Va., his home.

Mr. President, on the floor of the Senate, in the Council Chambers, in the committee rooms, and at work and in his recreation, he was always interesting, likeable, attractive and gave everything and every moment his very best. I have never had a finer friend or finer associate, or one who I appreciated more. I loved him most dearly and esteemed him highly.

Senator ROBERTSON was a man of extraordinary ability. He served his State for more than 50 years in public service, beginning as a member of the assembly of his State. Later he was a district prosecuting attorney, a Member of the House of Representatives, and then he served in the U.S. Senate for more than 20 years.

He had a very refreshing outlook on life. He was a man of fine spirit, with a good sense of humor, and he believed in the wholesome things of life. He put true values first, including high spiritual values. He had a true, firm, solid belief in God. No man could have had a higher purpose in his approach to public affairs, as the Senator ROBERTSON I knew, and his record will reflect that. His record also shows he stood for principles and that he worked hard and conscientiously. He was a rugged individualist and a great debater, with a fine sense of fairness. He represented those things in public life that I think a man should represent. I shall always cherish his memory and his noble life of service and friendship.

I will have more to say about Senator ROBERTSON's passing and his life, as I am sure others will, at a later time.

Mr. SPONG. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Mississippi yielding to me. I think it is appropriate that he should announce to the Senate the passing of former Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON. Senator Stennis and Senator ROBERTSON were devoted friends.

As Senator Stennis has said, Senator ROBERTSON served the Commonwealth of Virginia for half a century. He was a diligent member of our State Senate. I believe he served as Virginia's first Commissioner of Game and Inland Fisheries. He represented the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia, the area that encompasses the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, and he served Virginia with great distinction in this body.

It was my privilege to succeed Senator ROBERTSON. He was a man of deep spiritual conviction, a dedicated public servant, a clean political opponent.

I join the Senator from Mississippi in grieving Senator ROBERTSON's passing and in announcing his death to the Members of the Senate.

I thank the Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Byrd) is on his way to the Chamber. I am sure the assistant majority leader would like him to have the floor shortly. I yield back the remainder of the time I have.

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. I ask unanimous consent that the time not be charged against either side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished senior Senator from Virginia (Mr. Byrd) be recognized for not to exceed 15 minutes and that the time not be charged against either side on the unfinished business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Chair recognizes the distinguished senior Senator from Virginia (Mr. Byrd).

Mr. BYRD of Virginia. Mr. President, I was very distressed to learn a few moments ago of the death of a distinguished former Member of this body, the Honorable A. WILLIS ROBERTSON. Former Senator ROBERTSON died at his home in Lexington this morning.

Senator ROBERTSON served in the U.S. Senate with distinction for 20 years. Prior to that, he served the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia in the House of Representatives for 14 years.

The people of the Shenandoah Valley knew WILLIS ROBERTSON long and well, and throughout his distinguished and long political career he had the firm support of his fellow citizens in the valley of Virginia.

Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives in Washington, WILLIS ROBERTSON served as a member of the Virginia Senate, and he also served as chairman of the Fish and Game Commission of the State of Virginia.

The people of Virginia held WILLIS ROBERTSON in great esteem and honored him many times when his name was on the ballot for public office.

I knew Senator ROBERTSON from my childhood. He and my father went to the Virginia Senate on the same day in 1916. Both, incidentally, were born in West Virginia. Both were born in the city of Martinsburg. Both were born in the same year on the same street. So they became close friends.

Both came to Washington, D.C., on the same day, March 4, 1933—WILLIS ROBERTSON to the House of Representatives and my father to the Senate.

Thus, I have had a long and affectionate relationship with the splendid resident of Lexington, Va., in Rockbridge County.

I regret his passing this morning. I feel that he rendered his State and Nation fine and valuable service over the years.

During the 20 years he served in the Senate, he was held in high esteem and with great affection by all of his colleagues here.

The people of Virginia will miss this fine son of hers who served Virginia so well, and who served the Nation so well.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Mr. President, I have heard with great sorrow of the death of our late colleague, former Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON of Virginia.

I feel this loss very keenly. WILLIS ROBERTSON came to the House of Representatives 2 years before I did. He and I came to the Senate on the same day—November 6, 1946.

During the entire time he was here in the Senate, I sat next to him on the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. During the last several years he was a Member of the Senate, he was chairman of that committee. I ascended to the chairmanship of the committee following his departure from the Senate.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was one of the finest men that I have ever known. He was equal to all occasions, in seriousness and in fun, when that was called for. He was a great storyteller. He had a great rich store of Southern stories, Confederate stories, and stories of every kind. He was a man who worked hard in all of his committee assignments. He was a great manager of legislation on the Senate floor.

I enjoyed my years with him. I lament his passing, and I extend to all of his loved ones my deepest sympathy.

TUESDAY, *November 2, 1971.*

Mr. TALMADGE. Mr. President, I am grieved by the passing of former U.S. Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON of Virginia. WILLIS ROBERTSON was my close personal friend, and I value very highly our warm association in the Senate.

Senator ROBERTSON gave his State and Nation more than half a century of dedicated and conscientious service, including 20 years in the U.S. Senate. When I first came to the Senate 15 years ago, I came to know WILLIS ROBERTSON as an able Senator and a close personal friend. We worked together in the Senate, and shared many

a pleasant hour in the field. Senator ROBERTSON was an ardent outdoorsman, who loved nature and all sports, especially hunting and fishing, which we enjoyed together on many, many occasions. Despite his age, WILLIS ROBERTSON was a virtual paragon of physical fitness. Although he was some 20 years my senior, I often found it difficult to equal his pace in the field or by the stream.

He served as the State of Virginia's first Commissioner of Game and Inland Fisheries from 1926 to 1932, when he first entered Congress. Throughout all his years of public service, he fought hard to preserve the scenic beauty and natural resources of his own State and all across the land.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was a great scholar in many areas and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was an eminent historian and one of the most learned students of the Bible ever to serve in the Senate.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was a gentleman in every sense of the word. I shall sorely miss him. Mrs. Talmadge joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

FRIDAY, *November 12, 1971.*

Mr. FANNIN. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn of the death November 1, of former Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON. I want to add my voice to those who have paid tribute to our late former colleague. I count myself fortunate that I had the opportunity to serve in the Senate with him during the final 2 years of his long career in the Congress.

Senator ROBERTSON was a statesman who served the State of Virginia and the Nation well in his seven terms in the House of Representatives and his 20 years in the U.S. Senate.

He had a fine legal mind, was an excellent speaker, and was a deeply religious man. Today's sportsmen owe him a debt for his conservation work several decades before this became a popular cause. Senator ROBERTSON was an authority on many subjects, including banking, trade, and tariffs.

Even more than this, he was a warm being who was respected in his home State and in the Congress.

MONDAY, *January 31, 1972.*

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, news of the death of Hon. WILLIS A. ROBERTSON, one of Virginia's great U.S. Senators, on November 1, 1971, left me with a feeling of personal loss and profound regret.

It was not my privilege to have served with Senator ROBERTSON during his long Senate tenure which extended from November 6, 1946, to January 3, 1967. However, WILLIS ROBERTSON was drawn back to the Senate on many occasions by the strong bonds of lasting friendships and from time to time he met with those of us who join together at Wednesday morning prayer breakfasts. He was always warmly and affectionately welcomed and it was here that I came to know and to admire that distinguished gentleman and statesman.

Mr. President, WILLIS ROBERTSON devoted a long and fruitful life to the service of his country and to his beloved State of Virginia. I came to see in him the extraordinary qualities of character which, throughout the history of our Nation, have characterized political leaders which the great State of Virginia has contributed to our Nation. For WILLIS ROBERTSON was a true son of Virginia, steeped in her proud traditions and true to her high ideals. He garnered an impeccable record of selfless service such as to make proud the people of Virginia and the Nation.

What a distinct honor it was for him to be chosen by the people of Virginia to succeed and to pick up the reins from the hands of the great Carter Glass in the U.S. Senate, and what an honor it was that he was privileged to work in close harness with his close friend, the great and beloved Senator Harry Flood Byrd, father of our distinguished colleague (Mr. Byrd).

Mr. President, the parallels in the political lives of Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON and Senator Harry Flood Byrd are indeed remarkable. Both were born in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, W. Va.—WILLIS ROBERTSON on May 27 and Harry Byrd a few days later on June 10 of

the same year—1887. Both served in the Virginia Senate—Harry Byrd from 1915 to 1925 and WILLIS ROBERTSON from 1916 to 1922. Both began their congressional careers on March 4, 1933, Senator Byrd in the U.S. Senate and Senator ROBERTSON as a Representative in the 73d Congress. He served continuously in that capacity until his election to the Senate in 1946 to fill the unexpired term of Carter Glass and served until January 3, 1967. In the meantime, Senator Byrd served continuously in the U.S. Senate until his resignation in 1965.

Mr. President, the institution of the U.S. Senate as well as the State of Virginia and our Nation have been vastly enriched by the life and service of WILLIS ROBERTSON. On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer this humble tribute to his memory and extend condolences to his family and loved ones.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to speak on this floor in praise of our late colleague, Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON. Many things can be said of him, but two things stand out in my mind. The first is that WILLIS ROBERTSON was a man of impeccable integrity. The second is that he was a man of intellect and learning.

In my judgment, it was these two qualities which combined to make WILLIS ROBERTSON a devoted and effective public servant for his State of Virginia and for the Nation.

Mr. President, Senator ROBERTSON was known for his strong stand in favor of a sound fiscal policy and he propounded this position with great skill and with a thorough knowledge of his subject.

So extensive was his expertise in the field of finance that after he left the Senate he served as a consultant to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and, of course, many of us in the Senate know of his great contribution to this body's deliberations on financial matters.

Before ecology and environment became household words, WILLIS ROBERTSON knew of the importance of both and devoted much of his energy and constructive efforts to preserve the beauty and quality of our natural resources. He was an avid outdoorsman; he loved the mountains and the streams of his native Virginia. He worked hard

for sword fish and game policies and many people throughout the United States are today enjoying hunting and fishing areas, because of cooperative State-Federal programs which WILLIS ROBERTSON promoted.

It has been said that WILLIS ROBERTSON came from the same mold which produced Virginia's early statesmen. Those of us who knew him and admired him can attest to this. He possessed that combination so essential in a statesman: Great moral character and purpose on one hand, and the knowledge and ability to shape events on the other.

Mr. President, we miss him as a Senator and as a friend and hope that our words may be of comfort to his family.

TUESDAY, *February 1, 1972.*

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, our late former colleague, A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, was an especially effective statesman since to his legislative knowledge and ability he added a deep sense of dignity, honesty, and patriotism.

While serving with him on the Senate Appropriations Committee I had the privilege of getting to know him not only as an accomplished legislator but also as the personification of all that is implied when one person refers to another as "a true Southern gentleman." I can assure you that this particular Yankee from New Hampshire will miss the Southern gentleman from Virginia, WILLIS ROBERTSON, who represented his State so long and well.

THURSDAY, *February 3, 1972.*

Mr. BYRD of Virginia. Mr. President, my distinguished colleague from Virginia and I requested this time this morning so that any of our colleagues who desire to do so might have an opportunity to make remarks concerning a late beloved member of this body, former Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

Mr. President, I had known Senator ROBERTSON all of my life. It just so happened that Senator ROBERTSON and my father came to know each other the year that I was born. The reason for that was that that was the year when each of them was elected to the Virginia Senate. They served in the Virginia Senate together, and subsequently served together in the Senate of the United States.

Senator ROBERTSON had an outstanding political career in Virginia, an outstanding career of public service. He served as a member of the Virginia Senate. He served as Commonwealth attorney for Rockbridge County. He served as chairman of the fish and game commission. He served as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the Seventh Congressional District. And he served for 20 years in the Senate of the United States.

Last fall I spoke in the Senate in regard to Senator ROBERTSON and my friendship for him. I shall not repeat those remarks today other than to say that he was a longtime friend and he was an outstanding, distinguished, and able legislator.

Mr. SPONG. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator Byrd of Virginia.

I was in the Senate Chamber when word was received of the passing of Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON and on that occasion made some remarks to the Senate. I should like to supplement them this morning.

Mr. President, Senator ROBERTSON served the Commonwealth of Virginia with distinction for a half a century. He was elected to our State senate in 1916 and was a diligent member of that body. He also served as Commonwealth's attorney for Rockbridge County, as chairman of the State Commission on Game and Inland Fisheries, and as representative of Virginia's Seventh Congressional District, that area which encompasses the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. He was elected to the Senate in 1946 to succeed the late Carter Glass, whom he greatly admired.

It was my privilege to succeed Senator ROBERTSON. As I observed in the Senate on the day his passing was announced, he was "a man of deep spiritual conviction, a dedicated public servant, and a clean political opponent."

Virginius Dabney, in his recent book entitled "Virginia: The New Dominion," recalls that Senator ROBERTSON once declared:

> I would be happy if history records my efforts in behalf of conservation as a worthwhile contribution to my day and generation.

He was especially proud to be a cosponsor of the Pittman-Robertson Act, which has produced millions of dollars for wildlife preservation activities.

Mr. Dabney states that Senator ROBERTSON "was particularly concerned for the preservation of the forests from destruction and the rivers from pollution and in this he was ahead of his time."

I think, with the emphasis we now know must be placed on the environment and its preservation, Senator ROBERTSON's pioneering work in this field will truly be recognized as a worthwhile contribution not only to his day and generation but to future generations as well.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to join in the sentiments expressed by the two distinguished Senators from Virginia.

There was a good deal of similarity between Senator Byrd of Virginia and Senator ROBERTSON. They both came from the same part of the country. They were both born about the same time, and, insofar as the chairmanship of their respective committees was concerned, Finance on the part of Senator Byrd of Virginia and Banking and Currency on the part of Senator ROBERTSON, I wish to say that regardless of how they felt about any particular piece of legislation, they always gave that legislation the most serious, expeditious consideration, and had it reported to the floor where the Senate would then decide what its ultimate disposition would be.

I came to love Harry Byrd, who sat in that chair, because he was a wise man and a good man, and his counsel was always worthwhile. And I had great affection for WILLIS ROBERTSON, with whom I served in both the House and the Senate, and who, as has been indicated, was interested in the environment long before it became a popular subject.

The loss of both Senators from the Old Dominion has been felt in this body, but I am delighted that the son is filling the shoes of the father and that the distinguished junior Senator from Virginia (Mr. Spong) is likewise filling the shoes of his predecessor, as well as his

own. Virginians should be very proud of the two Senators who represent them in the line of succession to the two former Senators who have passed to their reward.

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, I appreciate the fact that the Senator from Virginia has yielded time to me. Most of my colleagues know that the late Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON and I became very close personal friends. I do not propose to repeat here today things that I have already said on the floor of the Senate, some on the occasion of his retirement from this body and some on the day that we learned of his passing. But I do, as a personal friend and in part as an associate and fellow Senator, wish to express my thoughts concerning a part of that area of our association.

Mr. President, if I had to sum up Senator ROBERTSON's character as well as his career in a limited number of words—in two words, we will say—I would think first of his being a genuine person. Genuineness: He was genuine about the things that he attempted to do. He was genuine in his acts and in his conduct. He was genuine in every respect.

Another single word that would sum up a lot about him was that he was a wholesome man, which I think means a great deal. Wholesomeness: He had a wholesome outlook on life, and that certainly included, for him, a basic faith in his fellow man. He had strong differences of opinion with some of his fellow men, but he had a basic faith in humanity and his fellow man. Further, he had a basic continuing faith in God as Creator and as a Divine Power. These things meant a great deal to him, and he lived his beliefs.

In that connection, those who were closely associated with him knew that he was truly a student of the Bible. He knew the contents of the Bible in a scholarly way, as well as looking upon its cardinal principles as a basis for his faith.

I should mention here, too, that he was the son of a Baptist minister in Virginia. His father read the Bible in the original Greek; he was that much of a scholar, as well as a Biblical scholar—I am referring to the father—and I happen to know that Senator ROBERTSON's father at a time when his family consisted of his wife and four or five children, he turned down a call to fill the pulpit in the First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., which then as now was well supported

financially, in order to accept the call of the Baptist Church of Virginia to go into the mountains as a home missionary; the compensation in money for that missionary position was $50 a month. This, of course, was many years ago.

This shows the type of faith, dedication, and devotion that his father exemplified and his mother matched, I am sure. It shows the kind of home that he was reared in. The teachings of that home certainly paid off in this fine son and his great work.

Those of us who knew him so well, and knew of his scholarly approach to the Bible, knew also of his dedication and devotion to some of the great figures of the Bible: Job for one, and Moses is another illustration. He had, I think, many of the qualities that those notable Biblical characters possessed.

I think of him, too, in connection with his love for the great outdoors.

I remember that long before there was a national movement about ecology, or publicity or consciousness about it, even long before I knew him, Senator ROBERTSON was leading the way for fish and wildlife conservation, for the purity of water streams, and for the protection of our natural resources. He was a man long ahead of his time.

That interest led him to be the author of much of Virginia's fish and game law of his time, and after he came here, he was coauthor of a bill that is still the basic national law on the subject.

That interest was not just from the sportsman's standpoint; it was from the standpoint of his great love of nature, even though he was a very ardent sportsman—always interested—and that interest spread to others who associated with him. I know that when he was past his 80th birthday and until about the last 12 months of his life, shooting wild quail—that is, quail raised on the outside—without wearing glasses, the quail had a mighty small chance to survive. I would not score anyone ahead of him except the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Talmadge), who would run a very close second.

It was an inspiration for me to be with WILLIS ROBERTSON on many such occasions, when he liked to tramp the fields and wade the streams. Whether the game was plentiful or not, he got great enjoyment.

I associated with him not only in Washington, in the Senate, but also during many visits to his native State of Virginia which he loved so well—and which I love, too. We were together in other places, in other States. All were frequently engaged in work on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He had a great number of wholesome, fine friends all over the State of Virginia and many other States. Just the fact of their friendship enduring over the years speaks more eloquently than I can. He had friends in Congress, and deserved them; and, in turn, he was a great friend of many of us.

I want to mention, also, that he had a fine sense of humor. He always relished a good, clean story and he had many of his own. But it was his original wit and humor and his vivid descriptions that would entertain us the most, whether on hunting trips or at a social event or at a committee meeting in the Senate, and even on the floor. I think his sense of humor was one of the things that kept him going, still physically active, into the ninth decade of his life.

I think it is appropriate to mention, too, the fine way that he consistently exercised during his youth and his adult years. In his arms was the same muscle with which he played football at the University of Richmond, as a student. His muscles were strong and vigorous until a few weeks before he passed away. He had never been flabby under any circumstances. That describes the man—his wholesomeness, his cleanness, his outlook on life, and his fine sense of a true sportsman; a fine Christian man who lived his religion every day of the week.

Mr. President, I miss him; I miss him every day. I miss him on patriotic holidays, and I recall how he would express himself. I miss him on religious holidays, such as the Christmas season. I think one of the tests of a man's greatness and his effectiveness in life is whether he is missed. I know he is missed by many of his colleagues, by his many, many friends. I have received many expressions of this.

I feel that the great, fine spirit that was Willis Robertson cannot be dead. That would not be the end. There is a future life for him. His spirit lives, continues to live here, and I am sure it also lives in that great beyond.

My words are very feeble as compared to the words used by Dr. William L. Lumpkin, pastor of the Freemason Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., when this scholarly, fine, wholesome minister and gentleman delivered the funeral service for our late friend on the campus of Virginia Military Institute, in the magnificent chapel, in Lexington, Va., which was the home city of WILLIS ROBERTSON. I have never seen a more fitting place nor more fitting surroundings for the funeral of a man who had served his State so well. A magnificent sermon was delivered by Dr. Lumpkin, who at one time, 20 years ago, had been the pastor of Senator ROBERTSON's church in Lexington.

So that the sermon may be shared and so that the words may be expressed again for an even wider audience, I ask unanimous consent that the words of this truly great leader, this outstanding minister of Virginia, spoken on that occasion, be printed at this point in the Record.

There being no objection, the sermon was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

FUNERAL SERVICE OF HONORABLE A. WILLIS ROBERTSON

In the midst of the sage of Israel's Wilderness Wandering we read that "Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, 'At evening ye shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning ye shall see the glory of the Lord . . .'." I would have you consider with me the theme:

THE BEAUTY OF THE SUNSET

You have sat on a hill and watched the sun going down; your soul has thrilled at the beauty of the sunset. In similar light we are to see the death of our honored friend, A. WILLIS ROBERTSON. Think of the world as a park filled with gardens and playgrounds, trees and lakes, museums and swimming pools. We are like children privileged to spend a day in the great park. The time we are privileged to spend is not the same in length, in light nor in beauty. Some days are long and sunlit; others are cloudy and stormy, as in a winter's tale. Some children are able to stay only a few short hours. Some must go home at noon while the sun is still shining. Others stay until the sun begins to set in the beauty of the west. For each of us the moment comes when the great nurse, Death, takes us by the hand and quietly says "It is time to go home, my child; come with me." This our admired friend has been privileged to live until the shadows of the setting sun had lengthened, and the evening had come; the business of the world was hushed, and the fever of life was over, and work was done.

I. Death can be beautiful when it comes as a Friend to Old Age. We often wish in a childish way that life would never end, and in our rebellious moments we wonder why God created the universe so death comes at all. We feel that death is an enemy of life, not a friend. But that is not right. It is the knowledge that our years are limited that makes them so precious. Plato was right when he declared that infinite life on this earth for us human beings would not be desirable even if it were possible. Who would want to live a never-ending existence on earth through endless years of struggle and change, pain and worry, conflict and labor—with no possibility of escape? Life would be monotonous with no heights or depths, without crescendos or diminuendos, with no challenge nor achievement. What drudgery if day would never end and the sun would never set. When evening finally comes on a sweltering day, how welcome it is. What cool peace and embracing rest! What satisfying release! What a wonderful Friend! This our brother had come to experience the burden of the years. Death came as his friend. John Oxenham wrote:

"Lord, when Thou seest that my work is done,
Let me not linger on, With failing powers,
Adown the weary hours.—
A workless worker in a world of work.
But, with a word, Just bid me home,
And I will come Right gladly.—
Yea, right gladly Will I come."

II. Again, death can be beautiful when it comes as a Climax to a Full, Worthwhile Life. One need not eulogize to you who have known him, the record or the character of the departed. His life tells its own story. The friendships expressed here demonstrate its influence. Some there are who come to the end of life filled with remorse and regret. "Take my wasted years," said one, "and bury them with me." He had misused his life, had furthered no great cause of human welfare, had buried his talents in the quest for cheap, selfish security. Such was not the case with A. Willis Robertson. He inherited a notable family heritage and magnified his inheritance. In words of a Senate colleague: "The rootage of Senator Robertson goes back to the first permanent settlement of Jamestown, Dr. John Woodson, who came to Jamestown with Governor Yardley in 1619. Senator Robertson is a member of the Jamestown Society, made up of those whose ancestors lived in the Jamestown area prior to 1700. He belongs to the Virginia chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati, limited to those who had an ancestor serving for three years in the Revolutionary War. He holds membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, which is a much larger organization of descendants of Revolutionary ancestors, and of the Sons of the Confederacy, being a grandson of a Confederate officer who was killed in the Civil War.

In fact, Senator Robertson's ancestors were in every war this country ever fought, and he served in the Army in World War I.

With this "rootage" it is not surprising that he has been a champion of patriotic citizenship, and student and defender of the ideals and principles upon which our Republic was founded. He is indeed worthy of the tremendous heritage which is his as Senator from the State which has given our country Washington, Jefferson, George Mason, Patrick Henry, James Madison, James Monroe, and so many of her greatest and noblest sons.

For half a century he invested his talents and strength in service to his home community, his State, and his Nation. In twenty years of membership in the U.S. Senate, climaxing his public career, he came to occupy positions of greatest responsibility for the Natiton's welfare. "Breadth, dedication, and immense energy," says a Norfolk newspaper, characterized his performance in public life. His pioneering work as a conservationist illustrates his concern and labor for generations unborn. His moral integrity, his concern for humanity, and his splendid contributions to national economic policy are causes for gratitude on the part of all of us. He richly deserves the accolade: "one of Virginia's most able and durable public servants."

From a message of condolence of President Nixon I quote: "Senator ROBERTSON was a distinguished figure in public life, a man of profound conviction, and wholly dedicated to the Nation he served with such honor. Those of us who were fortunate to have worked with him will always remember Senator ROBERTSON with warm affection and with great respect for his devotion to the fundamental principles upon which this country was founded.

"A man whose life was so rich in achievements is a continuing source of inspiration to others and we hope that this knowledge will serve to comfort and strengthen you in the years ahead."

What Georgia Harkness wrote of her father might have been written of A. WILLIS ROBERTSON:

"A giant pine, magnificent and old
Stood staunch against the sky and all around
Shed beauty, grace and power. Within its fold
Birds safely reared their young. The velvet ground
Beneath was gentle, and the cooling shade
Gave cheer to passers-by. Its towering arms
A landmark stood, erect and unafraid,
As if to say, 'Fear nought from life's alarms.'
It fell one day. Where it had dauntless stood
Was loneliness and void. But men who passed
Paid tribute—said. 'To know this life was good.
It left its mark on me. Its work stands fast.'
And so it lives. Such life no bonds can hold—
This giant pine, magnificent and old."

III. Finally, death can be beautiful when it looks forward to God's glory in the morning. "Here in this present life we are permitted to know something of beauty, truth, and goodness, to read something of the splendor of the majesty of God. Yet the very best that we can see and know on earth is but a poor fraction of what must be waiting yonder to be revealed. Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for those who love him."

For Senator ROBERTSON was a man of faith. He did not parade his religion, but it was a living force in his inner sanctuary. Now and again we would view its bright evidences: in his deep knowledge and frequent use of the Scriptures, in his leadership of prayer breakfasts for congressmen in Washington, in the concern for the local congregation of believers to which he belonged, and in occasional moving expressions of personal faith.

For children of God through faith in Christ the best is yet to be. Death is not the end; it is only a new beginning. It is going to bed on a cold, black night, and waking with the sun always shining. Victor Hugo, the French author, wrote, "When I go down to the grave, I can say, like many others, 'I have finished my day's work.' But I cannot say, 'I have finished my life.' My day's work will begin the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight, and opens on the dawn."

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Mr. BYRD of West Virginia. Mr. President, Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON was a man who served his State and Nation with diligence and distinction for 50 years—part of which was service as assemblyman, as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and, for 20 years, as a highly respected Member of this body.

I had a deep regard for Senator ROBERTSON as a legislator and as a friend. I felt a special kinship for a man who was born in Martinsburg, W. Va., even though most of his life and work were devoted to the service of our neighboring Commonwealth.

On the floor of the Senate, in council chambers and in committee rooms, WILLIS ROBERTSON was at all times likable, attractive, conscientious, and effective in his duties. His notable ability was never

more appreciated than when he fulfilled the onerous and important responsibilities attendant on the chairmanship of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Senator ROBERTSON was a man of fine spirit, with a refreshing outlook on life. No man could have had a higher purpose in his approach to public affairs, and he stood solidly for his principles and steadfastly for his spiritual values. This steadfastness was revered by his many friends in the valley of Virginia, in the U.S. Senate, and by all who were fortunate enough, as I was, to know and cherish this fine, late distinguished American.

Mr. SPONG. Mr. President, Senator Byrd and I are appreciative of the remarks this morning about this late, distinguished representative of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I am pleased that Senator Stennis has been thoughtful and placed in the Record the remarks of Dr. Lumpkin on the occasion of Senator ROBERTSON's funeral. I heard them, and am pleased that a wider audience will have an opportunity to share them.

Senator Byrd and I were pleased, also, that Senator Byrd of West Virginia has spoken this morning, since Senator ROBERTSON was a native of that State, although he spent almost all his life in our State.

Mr. PASTORE. Mr. President, Virginia, "the Mother of Presidents," has likewise sponsored great Americans for service in this Senate—and the 20 years service of the late Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON ranks him among the superlative Virginians and Americans.

His public life covered a span of 50 years, a half century of honor and responsibility to his people. To that career WILLIS ROBERTSON brought the stamina of a college athlete and the scholarship of Phi Beta Kappa.

In public finance, national and international, Senator ROBERTSON was an authority—and, yet, the conservation of wildlife was probably dearest to the heart of this able Virginian—in a time when he was sharing the burdens of world crises in these years of challenge and change. The burden of office is all too apparent as colleague after colleague depart the human scene.

The soul of courtesy and the embodiment of friendship even with those of contrary view, it was a privilege to have shared these Senate years with WILLIS ROBERTSON—and a Nation's gratitude as well as personal sympathy goes in tribute to his beloved ones.

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, I was privileged to serve with the distinguished former Senator from Virginia, WILLIS A. ROBERTSON, during the two decades he represented his great State in this body, and before that I also served with him in the House.

He was as unswerving in his adherence to the Constitution as he was gentle and compassionate in his dealings with his fellow man.

He was a stalwart on issues of constitutional government, indeed, he was steadfastly devoted to all fundamental principles. He was a workhorse in the Senate, discharging his responsibilities with diligence and representing his constituents indefatigably. During his chairmanship of the powerful Banking and Currency Committee, he was instrumental in shaping the vitally important monetary policies and programs of the Government. Senator ROBERTSON was an expert on the economy and an unrelenting champion of prudent fiscal spending—the kind of philosophy we so sorely miss and need in governmental affairs today.

But Senator ROBERTSON was a many-sided man. And it is significant that he once said that:

> I would be happy if history records my efforts on behalf of conservation as being a worthwhile contribution to my day and generation.

I am sure that history will so record and never forget that he was a principal sponsor of the Pittman-Robertson Act, which returned millions of dollars in Federal taxes on sporting guns and ammunition to the States for their game and conservation projects. He was an avid outdoorsman, an expert hunter, and a superb fisherman, who could spin yarns with the best of them.

But he could also deliver, with equal ease, the most thoughtful, lucid, and logical addresses on questions of constitutional law that I have ever heard.

Yes, Mr. President, Senator WILLIS A. ROBERTSON was a unique man, whose wisdom, counsel, and friendship will long be remembered

by the American people—his devoted constituents—and all of us who had the privilege to serve and work with him.

Mrs. McClellan joins with me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Mr. ANDERSON. Mr. President, Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON of Virginia was a valued colleague and associate in the Congress for a quarter of a century. When I came to the House of Representatives in January 1941, Congressman ROBERTSON was beginning his fifth term and was already known for his diligence and legislative abilities. Although he was busy and had many demands upon his time, he was unfailingly helpful and courteous.

It was my pleasure and good fortune, upon beginning my first Senate term in 1949, to again find WILLIS ROBERTSON as a colleague. We worked together through 1966, a period of time during which the Nation experienced many difficulties, foreign and domestic, a time when the Nation and the Congress were fortunate to have a man with the experience and judgment of Senator ROBERTSON. In the House and the Senate, he served for 33 years and rose to the chairmanship of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Sometimes we agreed: sometimes we did not. But Senator ROBERTSON had the ability to differ without being contentious, and the capacity and willingness to help those of his colleagues of all political persuasions. I personally am grateful for his service in the public arena, and miss his presence.

Mr. MOSS. Mr. President, I was deeply sorry to hear of the death—in retirement—of our esteemed colleague, WILLIS ROBERTSON.

It can truly be said that he was a man who had the courage of his convictions. He knew what he believed, and he never wavered from those beliefs. Those of us who sometimes disagreed with him honored him for his strength of character and his resolute stand.

He was also a man of his word. When he said he would do something—he did it.

America has been built by men like WILLIS ROBERTSON who did not know how to back down, or equivocate or break faith.

My own associations with him were closest in the field of conservation. He strove, as I always have, to protect the outdoor life he so deeply enjoyed, and always said that his wildlife conservation work was his happiest. His efforts in behalf of conservation will be recognized for years to come. I remember appreciatively going birdhunting with WILLIS in his native Virginia.

Nor will his contributions in the field of taxation be soon forgotten. As chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, he carried for many years the burden of legislation which had a tremendous impact on the lives of all Americans—and he carried it with skill and distinction. The record he left is a proud one.

His passing was a personal loss to those of us who served as his colleagues, and loss to his State and Nation as well.

FRIDAY, *February 4, 1972.*

Mr. JORDAN of Idaho. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I join my colleagues in mourning the passing of another great American patriot, the late Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

In the few years we served together, I developed a great respect for this fine Virginian, who served his State and country in a manner deserving of the highest of tributes and the greatest of praise.

The late Senator and I shared many mutual interests—among them finance economics, and conservation—not to mention a great love and respect for the outdoors. Senator ROBERTSON was a most versatile scholar and I can remember conversing with him on subjects ranging from the shenanigans of college football to the intricacies of international finance. Even though we wore different party labels, I often sought his counsel during my early days in this body. I had great respect for his nonpartisan judgment and openminded attitude for I knew that behind each word he spoke lurked a great amount of thought and wisdom.

Senator ROBERTSON was a most effective and able statesman and none would deny that his 20 years of service in this Chamber were well spent. Indeed, Virginia and the Nation have lost one of their finest public servants—and I have lost a dear friend.

TUESDAY, *February 8, 1972.*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. President, I am moved today by the memory of my distinguished and truly respected late colleague from the State of Virginia, Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON. He was a man who always did bring to my mind the images of a U.S. Senator and of the true southern gentleman. For he was a man devoted to the institution he served in so well for over 20 years. And he was a man devoted to his deepest being to his beloved Virginia.

His code was different from mine. Yet serving under him on the Committee on Banking and Currency I could not help appreciating his gentle humor and keen knowledge of the many tasks faced by the committee of which he was chairman.

Senator ROBERTSON's greatest accomplishments, however, did not obscure his deep humanity and love for life. An avid and, I understand, quite successful dove hunter, Senator ROBERTSON merged his great love for the outdoors with his desire to serve the public. Virginians well remember his accomplishments as chairman of Virginia's Commission on Game and Inland Fisheries. And sportsmen around the country commemorate him as the Senate sponsor of the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Senator ROBERTSON was also a man who was keenly aware of and extremely proud of his roots. I can well remember the twinkle in his eye as he spoke of his grandfather's service with the Army of Virginia and of his gallantry in the Battle of the Wilderness. He was proud as he spoke and never wavered in that pride or his love for his State.

I am happy to have known this man and to have had the opportunity to serve with him on the Committee on Banking and Currency. I know that all Senators share my sense of loss at his passing.

Mr. FONG. Mr. President, I pay my respects today to the late Senator from Virginia, A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, a great man and good friend whose passing last November I deeply grieve.

Senator ROBERTSON represented the people of Virginia well. He served for them in Congress for 34 years, first in the House of Representatives and then in this distinguished body.

Among his many accomplishments while in Congress was the recodification of our banking laws. WILLIS ROBERTSON worked hard to insure proper legislation on the matter, and he was justly proud of the Banking Act which resulted.

He will also be remembered for passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act, which has done much to protect America's wildlife.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was a man who loved and was loved by the people of beautiful Shenandoah Valley. He was their and his State's very able spokesman. Virginia is better and the Nation is better because of him.

For me, it was a special honor and privilege to have known him well. His warmth and friendliness I will always remember and cherish.

WILLIS ROBERTSON had many good qualities. He was, among other things, deeply religious and especially devout.

Perhaps the best compliment I can pay him is to say that he was a Christian in the full sense of the word.

Mr. President, to WILLIS ROBERTSON's sons, A. Willis, Jr., and Marion Gordon, and to other members of the family, my wife, Ellyn, and I extend our deepest sympathies and our most sorrowful aloha.

THURSDAY, *February 17, 1972.*

Mr. BIBLE. Mr. President, it is a sad duty but also a privilege to join in honoring the memory of Senator WILLIS ROBERTSON. I claim no distinction when I call WILLIS ROBERTSON a close personal friend. For he was a man of lasting friendships, and all of us in the Senate shared a warm, personal relationship with him. He was truly a

distinguished gentleman, and I use those words in the truest sense of their meaning.

WILLIS ROBERTSON's fine career in Congress spanned nearly 34 years, and those were years of dedicated service to his beloved State and Nation.

I knew WILLIS ROBERTSON as both a trusted ally and a respected adversary. We worked closely together in the area of natural resource conservation and wildlife preservation, and we found ourselves as opponents on the silver policy issue. In each case he was a tough, skillful battler for what he believed in, but he tempered this with a warmth of human understanding. I know from personal experience that it was best to have him on your side.

The fine record WILLIS ROBERTSON wrote as chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee speaks for itself, as does his entire public career. There was a private side, though, that only his friends were privileged to experience. That was his deep love for the great outdoors, particularly the woods and fields and the lakes and streams of Virginia. He was always eager to show others the beauty of Virginia, and he was a genial and generous host. Some of my fondest memories are of my visits to the ROBERTSON home and of the hunting, fishing and hiking he loved so much.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was the First Gentleman of the Senate, and his spirit remains with us. For his visionary leadership and his fierce love of the unspoiled wilds, Virginia and the Nation owe him a debt that could never be repaid.

It is with sadness and pride that I pay him this final tribute.

MONDAY, *February 21, 1972.*

Mr. McGEE, Mr. President, it was not so long ago that the halls and corridors of the Senate were graced by the happy presence of that distinguished public servant from Virginia, A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, who, for two decades, ably represented the people of his State and the Nation in this body.

While those of us who served with Senator ROBERTSON have special memories of his long and devoted service, as well as friendship, the measure of the man can also be judged by the thousands upon thousands of citizens whose daily lives brought them into contact with Senator ROBERTSON. Almost invariably, I would say, they came away richer. Shortly after his death, I had occasion to discuss Senator ROBERTSON with a member of the Capitol Police, whose memories were of a down-to-earth man who always had the time and presence of mind to talk with and learn from the man on the door or the man on the street.

WILLIS ROBERTSON's career was varied, but, for the most part, it was a public career. A lawyer and a veteran of service during World War I, he served in the Virginia State Senate when many of us in this body were children. Later, he served as the Commonwealth's Attorney and as chairman of the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Commission—an experience which brought valuable insight to the U.S. Senate in later years.

A. WILLIS ROBERTSON was a wise legislator and a careful one. But, more, he was a solid man, a good friend, a person whose presence among us has made an impact. He is missed, Mr. President, but his example carries on.

MONDAY, *February 28, 1972.*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute to the late Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, of Virginia, one of the most influential statesmen and Senators of our time. Of all his distinguished qualities, I shall never forget his unfailing courtesy toward me when I first entered the Senate, his willingness to welcome a new young Member in this Chamber. Senator ROBERTSON stood in the fine tradition of Virginia statesmen going back to Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, and Virginia is richer today because of the dedicated service he gave her people.

Few men of our time have had such a long and brilliant career in public service. Born a minister's son in Martinsburg, W. Va., WILLIS ROBERTSON graduated from high school in Rocky Mount, Va., and went on to win both academic and athletic honors at Richmond College. After earning a law degree there, he opened his practice, and in 1915 he was elected to the Virginia State Senate from Rockbridge and Bedford Counties. Taking leave to volunteer for World War I as an Army officer, he served in the State senate until 1922 when he became commonwealth's attorney in Rockbridge.

In his career in Congress, Senator ROBERTSON became a renowned authority on taxation and international trade, but he was also proud of his efforts to protect the outdoor life he so enjoyed.

He once said:

> My wildlife conservation work is the happiest I have attempted to do. I would be happy if history records my efforts on behalf of conservation as being a worthwhile contribution to my day and generation.

Throughout his long career in State and Federal service, WILLIS ROBERTSON served the cause of conservation well and he has left many lasting monuments to his concern.

As a distinguished member of the House Ways and Means Committee for a decade, Mr. ROBERTSON established a reputation as a strong and effective advocate of fiscal responsibility, control of Government spending, and a balanced national budget. Upon the death in 1946 of Senator Carter Glass, whom he had greatly admired, Mr. ROBERTSON was nominated for the Senate by acclamation of the Virginia Democratic Convention to complete the unfilled term. He was elected easily to the seat, and 2 years later he was elected to his first full term in the Senate. During his two decades in this Chamber he served on the Appropriations Committee and as chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. He was a consistent champion of economy in Government spending, and a strong advocate of private investment to help developing nations.

Senator ROBERTSON had an extraordinary insight into the problems of economy as they affected millions of ordinary citizens. He championed the view that inflation was the cruelest policy a Government could inflict on its people, old and young alike. In recent years,

many of Senator ROBERTSON's predictions on the state of the American economy have been fulfilled—including the instability of the dollar on the world market and some of the worst inflation and budget deficits the Nation has ever suffered.

In addition to his expertise on economic affairs, Senator ROBERTSON was a dedicated internationalist. He advocated increased private American investments abroad, and he also supported substantial American foreign aid. In many respects, he was far ahead of his time. For example, he was one of the first to argue that our foreign aids should be made multilateral, by channeling it through international agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, a view that is only now beginning to be widely accepted in Congress and the Nation. Indeed, upon his retirement from the Senate in 1966, Senator ROBERTSON served as a consultant for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development until just before his death.

Although Senator ROBERTSON and I often differed on certain issues, I respected his wisdom and knowledge, and I deeply enjoyed our years together in the Senate. Senator ROBERTSON served the people of Virginia well, and Virginia and the Nation can take pride in his lifetime of brilliant and dedicated achievement.

WEDNESDAY, *March 1, 1972.*

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, I would like to express my sense of loss on the death of Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was both my friend and colleague. His passing is a loss not only to those who knew him personally, but to the Nation as well.

Senator ROBERTSON served the Commonwealth of Virginia with honor for over half a century. His career of public service, beginning in the State Senate of Virginia in 1916, culminated with 20 distinguished years in this body. It was my privilege to serve with him 18 of those years.

Although he will be best remembered for his able chairmanship of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Senator ROBERTSON was also a leader in the field of ecology. His protection of our Nation's natural resources and the legislation he authored on conservation demonstrated that he was a man ahead of his time. He has become an inspiration to many Americans who are working to preserve the natural beauty of this great country.

At this point, I would like to quote from President Nixon's message of condolence which, I think, expresses the feelings of those who knew him:

> Senator ROBERTSON was a distinguished figure in public life, a man of profound conviction, and wholly dedicated to the Nation he served with such honor. Those of us who were fortunate to have worked with him will always remember Senator ROBERTSON with warm affection and with great respect for his devotion to the fundamental principles upon which this country was founded.

FRIDAY, *March 3, 1972.*

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, it is not easy to put into words an expression of the appreciation one has for a long friendship with an outstanding man.

My friendship with A. WILLIS ROBERTSON began when I became a member of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency in 1951, and it ripened and deepened as each of us moved up toward the head of the committee table. It became firmly fixed when, in 1962, I became the ranking Republican on the committee of which he was chairman, and over the years between then and his retirement from the Senate.

We worked together on every piece of legislation that came before the committee, and I am sure there were not more than one-half dozen on which we voted differently.

Over most of these same years I was in his company every Wednesday morning at the Senate prayer breakfast. He was a tower of strength in that group and contributed to its fellowship, not only

in his wonderful spiritual thoughts, but with some equally wonderful Virginia stories. That association created another firm bond between us.

I have one outstanding memory of a single occasion on which we went fishing together in Virginia. I know that in those 2 days I came to understand his life-long devotion to the welfare of Virginia's sporting wildlife and his great interest and ability as a fisherman and hunter.

Finally, I had the privilege of being present at his funeral, a very impressive occasion, which brought back into focus all the great qualities of character, courtliness, and consideration that made him a true southern gentleman.

Mrs. Bennett joins with me in expressing our sympathy to his sons.

PROCEEDINGS
IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Proceedings in the House

THURSDAY, *November 4, 1971.*

Mr. ABBITT. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing of a former distinguished Member of this body and a former Member of the other body, the Honorable A. WILLIS ROBERTSON of Lexington, who passed away this past Monday.

Virginia has lost a distinguished citizen, the Nation has lost a dedicated servant, and I have lost a close friend and political associate.

Born on May 27, 1887, the son of a Baptist home missionary, he attended public schools in Lynchburg, Va. He was a 1907 graduate of Richmond College. In 1908 he received his law degree. He was a member of the Jamestown Society, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa.

He served his country well in World War I as an Army infantry officer.

WILLIS ROBERTSON entered public life in 1916 when he was first elected to the Virginia State Senate where he served until 1922. He then stepped down to become Commonwealth attorney for Rockbridge County from 1922 to 1928. He served as chairman of the commission of game and inland fisheries between 1926 and 1932.

A. WILLIS ROBERTSON first went to Congress in 1933 as the representative of Virginia's Seventh Congressional District. He served his State and country well. In the House he was floor leader for Cordell Hull's reciprocal trade program.

In 1946 he was first elected to the U.S. Senate after being nominated by a State convention to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable Carter Glass.

In the Senate he was to become the chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, a position he held until his political career ended in 1966.

He has been described as a polished statesman, a man of impeccable integrity, and as a man whose word was truly his bond.

I ask that all of Congress and Americans everywhere join with me today to pay tribute to a great American whose career spanned more than a half of a century, one who has made his mark in the Halls of Congress. A great American who Virginia will surely miss.

Mr. BOGGS. I should like to join with the gentleman from Virginia in paying tribute to the late Senator ROBERTSON.

He served in this body, as the gentleman from Virginia has said, for many years and served on the House Committee on Ways and Means. I served with him on that committee.

He was indeed, as the gentleman from Virginia has pointed out, an able and dedicated man, devoted to his State and his country, and to his family.

I join with the gentleman from Virginia in extending to his family the sympathy of myself and Mrs. Boggs.

Mr. POFF. Mr. Speaker, the late Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON was held in high esteem by all Virginians. He had a personal and family identification with the Sixth Congressional District which I have been privileged to represent. Indeed, a brother who has made his own mark in his own field of endeavor, is one of our most distinguished citizens.

I first came to know Senator ROBERTSON personally when I came to the Congress in January 1953. I will always hold in grateful memory the special acts of kindness he showed me. As a frightened, freshman Republican, I was more than a little lonesome in the new environment. Senator ROBERTSON made me feel welcome.

Those who know him best will always remember Senator ROBERTSON as a man of unusual talent and skill. He had a versatile intellect, sharpened and honed by the disciplines of great learning, his mind was resourceful, retentive and analytical, and when Senator ROBERTSON made a judgment, all could be confident that he had assembled all of the arguments, tested every facet of the problem and applied the rules of equity and justice.

Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON was a great son of Virginia, cast in the mold of Virginia's first great sons. I am proud that I was privileged to serve with him. To his family and his numberless friends, I extend my most heartfelt sympathy in their time of great sorrow.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman in expressing to the family of WILLIS ROBERTSON our deepest condolences and sympathy on his passing.

It was my privilege as a Member of the House of Representatives to have a great deal of exposure to him in conferences on important legislative matters. I did not serve with him in the House, but he was a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and during the course of my service on the House Committee on Appropriations we did have many opportunities to sit down and make decisions or to help to make decisions involving important matters concerning the national security and domestic progress of this country.

I can say with emphasis that WILLIS ROBERTSON was a statesman of the highest quality and a superb gentleman with all of the best qualities.

The country has lost a great citizen and many, including myself, have lost a dear and wonderful friend.

Mr. ROBINSON of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, A. WILLIS ROBERTSON was one of my predecessors as Representative in Congress for the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia.

Senior Members of the House remember him, I am sure, with high regard.

Later, he served with distinction in the other body.

While Senator ROBERTSON was of a different political persuasion, I doubt that there would be an occasion on which I would differ with him on a major fiscal matter if he were serving here today. His sound money, balanced budget philosophy was, and is, subscribed to by most citizens of the Seventh District, and, I believe, most Virginians.

Senator ROBERTSON developed early a reputation as a skilled interrogator at committee hearings, and this talent stood him in good stead in dealing with complex monetary matters. In recent years, the knowledge of fiscal affairs accumulated during his long congressional career was at the disposal of the International Bank for Reconstruc-

tion and Development, which he served as a consultant until his retirement to his Lexington, Va., home.

There was, however, another group of friends and admirers which knew WILLIS ROBERTSON primarily as the dedicated outdoorsman and conservationist. First as a fish and game commissioner in Virginia and later in the Congress, he was a vigorous fighter for the preservation of mountain streams and forests, and for sound fish and game management policies.

Many hunting and fishing areas enjoyed by sportsmen throughout the United States today are available by virtue of cooperative Federal–State programs which he joined in sponsoring.

His passing, therefore, is a great loss to two important causes—sound economic policy and conservation.

My sympathy goes out to the sons of this true Virginia gentleman, and to the other members of his family.

Mr. DANIEL of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of a great patriotic American, the late Honorable A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

Mr. Speaker, in the brief time I have been in the Congress, it has been my sad privilege to rise and comment on the passing of colleagues and former colleagues. It is not a pleasant undertaking, save for one fact. In each instance, I have been confronted, in recollection, with the uniqueness of each man whose virtues we relate and whose memory we revere.

Such a unique man was A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, late a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

WILLIS ROBERTSON cared about the natural resources of this country before he knew the word "ecology." He cared about the good earth, its fruits, the creatures it nourished. It has been said one of the accomplishments of his life of which he was most proud was having served as Virginia's first Commissioner of Game and Inland Fisheries. It is a mark of the man that the honors garnered over nearly half a century of public service failed to outshine, in his own esteem, this contribution to the people of his State and the fine heritage of its natural resources.

As is so often the case with the off-spring of ministers, WILLIS ROBERTSON inherited and nurtured a spiritual quality, a steadiness

of character, a firm and proper sense of the balance between man, his God, and his world, for which the people of our Nation may be grateful.

A man who never abandoned his views of a better world in nature and his hopes for a better world for his fellow man, WILLIS ROBERTSON bestowed a legacy on all of us.

Mr. WAMPLER. Mr. Speaker, Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON was a true Virginia gentleman and a great statesman in every sense of the word. Most of his life was devoted to working for the people of his State.

His deep moral convictions were an inspiration, the integrity of his political life was faultless, and his dedication to responsible government was an example to all who followed him.

The people of Virginia are grateful for his unselfish leadership and service, to which he devoted the best years of his life.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his family, his friends, and his colleagues.

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously saddened by the passing of Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON. He was a great Virginian who served his beloved Commonwealth and Nation with great distinction.

I shall never forget the many kindnesses he bestowed upon me when I first came to the Congress. Nor shall I forget the sound advice and counsel he gave me on innumerable occasions. I have many wonderful memories of him which will not soon fade from my mind.

I was with him at, what I term, his finest moment of service to his country. Senator ROBERTSON chaired the United States delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference being held in Brazilia, the capital city of Brazil, in the fall of 1962. Our delegation arrived in Brazilia on the same day the late President John F. Kennedy announced the naval blockade of Cuba. As fate would have it, all communications between Brazilia and the outside world suddenly and mysteriously ceased. The representatives of the 80-odd nations of the world assembled at the conference were without any information whatsoever as to what action followed the President's announcement. Rumors were abounding. One such rumor had it that

one of Russia's missile-bearing ships had been sunk and that a state of war existed.

The Red bloc sometimes preempted the first day of the conference. For 4 hours, the representatives from the Communist-controlled countries castigated the United States, stating time after time that there were no missiles in Cuba and that this was a ruse by the United States to mask the beginning of world war III.

After the Communists had exhausted their opportunity to speak, the House became silent and all eyes turned to the chairman of the U.S. delegation, the Senator from Virginia, A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, to respond.

Without any information as to the current status of events, Senator ROBERTSON rose to the defense of the United States of America—and he did so magnificently. Combining a superior intellect and years of experience, he extolled the virtues of our country, our desire for peace, and our integrity as a nation.

He spoke for nearly an hour and a half. There are few Americans who could have risen to the task under those circumstances. When he had completed his remarks, a thunderous ovation spread throughout the house and one by one, all the representatives of the free countries of the world rose to their feet in applause.

Senator ROBERTSON was a great Virginian and a great American. He shall be missed.

Mr. WHITEHURST. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in the tributes that have been made by my colleagues from Virginia regarding the late Senator A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

My memory of Senator ROBERTSON goes back to 25 years when he was in Lexington, Va., at which time I was a student at Washington and Lee University. I recall so well seeing Senator ROBERTSON there on the streets talking to the students. He was so friendly and open.

As I recall his record as a servant of the Old Dominion, I am reminded of the principles for which he stood foremost; honesty, integrity, and a very fine spirit of service.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is significant that his son has pursued an entirely different career and yet a career with which his father found

time to identify. His son has had a remarkable success with the Christian Broadcasting Network in Norfolk, Va., which has reached out in a most significant way to touch the lives of tens of thousands of people spiritually just as his father touched the lives of all Americans and those who served with him here in the Congress.

Mr. SIKES. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to join my distinguished friend and able colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Abbitt), and those of the other distinguished Members who have preceded me in their comments about the late A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, a former colleague and an outstanding American.

I knew WILLIS ROBERTSON very well. It was my privilege to serve with him for a number of years in the House prior to his service in the Senate. I continued to enjoy the privilege of working with him after he became a member of that body. I knew and appreciated the caliber of this distinguished gentleman, and I can attest to the very many contributions which he made. He was indeed a dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I valued his friendship and I know that his death is a great loss to America.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the survivors and friends of the family in this hour of sorrow.

TUESDAY, *November 9, 1971.*

Mr. ROONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia have lost a truly distinguished citizen with the passing of the Honorable A. WILLIS ROBERTSON who served for over 30 years in this House of Representatives and in the other body. He had a keen mind and combined it with great integrity. He was a fair man and a gentleman admired by all, regardless of political persuasion. He was a man that the Commonwealth of Virginia, which he loved so much and spent almost his entire life serving, could be duly proud. WILLIS ROBERTSON spent almost half a century in public service. Those many of us who knew him with admiration and respect

are deeply saddened by his passing. To his family I extend my deepest sympathy.

FRIDAY, *November 12, 1971.*

Mr. SATTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues from Virginia and throughout the Nation in paying tribute to my friend, the Honorable A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, who passed away on November 1.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was a dedicated public servant who loved his State and Nation. He was a strong man—a man's man—and in every instance of public service he conducted himself with dignity and forthrightness.

He served Virginia as a State senator, as a commonwealth's attorney, as chairman of the State Commission on Game and Inland Fisheries, and then for 14 years in the House and 20 years in the Senate.

WILLIS ROBERTSON was throughout his life an ardent conservationist. While the public record lists his many contributions in the areas of banking, currency, and economics, he, on one occasion stated:

> I would be happy if history records my efforts on behalf of conservation as being a worthwhile contribution to my day and generation.

His integrity and patriotism were never questioned and his devotion and strict adherence to the Constitution were fundamental to his philosophy.

I am honored to have known WILLIS ROBERTSON. Virginia and this Nation are better for his service. He deserves the gratitude of all Americans.

I insert the following editorial from the Thursday, November 4, 1971, Richmond Times-Dispatch in the Record at this point:

A. WILLIS ROBERTSON

Sen. A. WILLIS ROBERTSON served his State and his country well. He was an able, high-minded conservative whose knowledge of banking, currency, taxes and the tariff were exceptional, but whose greatest contribution of all

was probably as a pioneer in the sphere of conservation and the preservation of our wildlife and scenic resources from pollution and destruction.

He served with great ability back in the 1920's as the first chairman of the just-established State Commission on Game and Inland Fisheries. When he went to the House of Representatives, he served for 12 years as chairman of the Committee on Wildlife Conservation. During that period he was co-patron of the Pittman-Robertson Act to provide grants in aid to the states for upland game, and of the Migratory Duck Stamp Act to provide funds for refuge and breeding of migratory birds. Under other legislation that he sponsored, the U.S. Forest Service was directed to make the conservation of wildlife in our millions of acres of National Forest one of its major aims.

In the House he also was appointed to the powerful Ways and Means Committee, which handles all tax legislation. He was the first Virginian in a third of a century to be named to that body, and he rose to become the highest ranking Virginian on the committee since 1850.

Willis Robertson was elected to succeed Carter Glass in the Senate upon the latter's death, and he proved a worthy successor, especially in the field of banking and currency. Robertson became chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, and a recognized authority in the field.

He rose fairly frequently on the floor of both the House and Senate, and was a speaker of exceptional ability, who got his facts firmly in mind before undertaking to discuss any question. A strong believer in states' rights, he was never a demagogue or rabblerouser. As an orator on ceremonial occasions he reminded one of the old "stem-winders" of an earlier generation, for he gestured frequently and spoke in the rhetorical style that has now passed almost completely away.

Willis Robertson's defeat for reelection in 1966 by 611 votes at the hands of William B. Spong, Jr., is attributable, ironically enough, to the Conservative Party, which urged its adherents to stay out of the primary, since Robertson had not resigned from what it termed "the foul and filthy Democratic party." The result was that one of the leading conservatives in the Senate was retired from that body.

Willis Robertson was a companionable man, with a great love for hunting and fishing in both of which he was a recognized expert. He liked to raise his voice in song, and during the Korean War he belonged to a congressional quartet which entertained the hospitalized soldiers with barbershop harmonies. He was also a raconteur of unusual gifts.

Although, by an astounding coincidence, he and Harry F. Byrd, Sr. were born within two weeks of each other in Martinsburg, W. Va., and they entered the Virginia Senate and the U.S. Congress in the same year, they did not remain lifelong political intimates. Robertson's practice of regularly endorsing the Democratic nominee for the presidency did not appeal to Byrd. Robertson felt that "to maintain party government you have got to

maintain party regularity and support some candidates you don't personally care for." Byrd disagreed.

The integrity and patriotism of WILLIS ROBERTSON were strongly marked characteristics, as they were of Harry Byrd. The two men differed sincerely on some questions.

Sen. ROBERTSON accumulated few material goods during his more than half a century of public service, but he died with the admiration and respect of his fellow-citizens. He was entitled to feel that he made a lasting contribution to his State and to his country.

WEDNESDAY, *November 17, 1971.*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Nation was saddened on November 1 by the loss of one of the ablest citizens of our times, the Honorable A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

WILLIS ROBERTSON, a widely respected public servant of considerably more than a third of a century, was eulogized as "a man of tireless energy with a deep sense of patriotic devotion."

In the days before "conservation" and "ecology" were neither widely understood nor supported, WILLIS ROBERTSON set his strong mark in this field both in Virginia and the Nation. In the 1920's he was selected as the first chairman of the Virginia State Commission on Game and Inland Fisheries. In related work after he came to the Congress, WILLIS ROBERTSON cosponsored legislation to assist States in providing refuge and breeding places for migratory birds and to increase the supply of upland game. He also sponsored an act to direct the U.S. Forest Service to help conserve wildlife on the millions of acres under its jurisdiction.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee of the House—the first Virginian to serve on that body in a third of a century—he became a ranking power known for his integrity, legislative craftsmanship, hard work, and persuasive diplomacy. Later, in the Senate, he continued to be exemplified by these same outstanding traits and became an expert in the fields of banking, currency, tariffs, and trade. He served with great distinction as chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency.

Senator ROBERTSON, always a stanch supporter of the Constitution and a believer in States' rights, had the power of eloquent rhetoric—but it was never misused. In an editorial, his close friend, Gen. E. Walton Opie said:

> ABSALOM WILLIS ROBERTSON won himself a place in Virginia and U.S. history as a statesman who put state and country above personal and political considerations. . . . He enjoyed tremendous personal popularity with his colleagues in both parties, an influence which was effective in creating decisive support for good legislation.

The tribute to WILLIS ROBERTSON on his 79th birthday by his Massachusetts colleague, Senator Leverett Saltonstall, is a fitting summation of the man and his work:

> I have served with WILLIS ROBERTSON on the Appropriations Committee of the Senate for eighteen years and I know he has his feet on the ground with relation to the expenditures of our Government on the programs that are submitted to the Congress. He is always thoughtful concerning his Virginia constituency, but places his country above his State on matters that affect the Nation as a whole.

I join his numerous friends in mourning the loss of this outstanding leader, and extend my sincere condolences to his family.

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